



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

MAY EDITION

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City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Latasha Gatling

(At Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

AT Large Council member

Kelly Porter

Acting City Administrator/ Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Samuel Prue

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MAYORS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER HOST FIRST JOINT HEALTH SUMMIT



Mayor Grant, center, holds a press conference to announce the Health Summit. Also pictured are Council President Latasha Gatling (to the right), Delegate Michael Vaughn (on the left) and Dr. Donald Shell, Prince George's County Health Officer (in the background).

The Mayor of Seat Pleasant, Maryland, Eugene W. Grant, along with event Co-Chair Dr. Bradley, Director of the University of Maryland Prevention Research Center hosted the first joint health summit of Prince George's County Mayors and the University of Maryland to address health disparities inside the County. The purpose of the summit was to establish an action plan to address health disparities in the 24th and 25th legislative district. The Summit was titled, "Health Reform Models for Healing Our Community" and was held at Seat Pleasant City Hall.

The 24th and 25th legislative district has many of the worst health outcomes in the State of Maryland. With the passage of the health reform bill, there is considerable funding to expand primary care services, implement preventative health measures and increase the capacity of community health centers. Communities must begin making a critical assessment of their health assets to begin planning to address the best practices to establish preventative health programs that are embraced by the community. This event provided a forum to initiate that process. The event began with the presentation of several models for addressing health disparities across the region. The day concluded with a discussion of the action steps that the community must take to improve the health outcomes of its residents and prevent premature death and disease that is occurring all too frequently.



GREETINGS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings,

As always, I hope this newsletter finds you in warm spirits. I would like to thank you for coming out and participating in Seat Pleasant Day. As always, it was a pleasure to be in your presence. I look forward to seeing you again next year!

In an effort to keep you abreast of what the Council is working on, here are a couple of projects that are being worked at this moment:

- City Budget- the Mayor has submitted his proposed budget to the council, you have weighed in and made suggestions. We are now working to ensure that we have a budget that is fair and economically sound.
- City Website- the City website is currently in the works and should be up and running very soon. We are aiming for a June launch date.
- Mosquitoes- As you know we are a part of a mosquito abatement program with the University of Maryland, therefore if there is an area within the city that needs special attention please contact City Hall with the location so that we can make sure that it is on the list to be sprayed.
- Census-Please continue to complete and mail your census forms. Let us make sure we are doing our part to bring much needed resources into Seat Pleasant.

In conclusion, be safe. We look forward to seeing each of you at our Public Meeting held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at City Hall. Again, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at 301-336-2600.

Sincerely,

LaTasha C. Gatling

Council President

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT LEGISLATION ADOPTED CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SESSION

MONDAY, MAY 10, 2010

ORDINANCE O-10-07 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Ordinance concerning Chapter 67-Property Maintenance Code for the purpose of Adopting the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code book.

ORDINANCE NO. O-10-08

Ordinance concerning the Amendment of FY2009-2010 Budget shall be amended by increasing the Administration Capital Improvement for Energy Efficient Grant and Enterprise Funds Contractual Services for the John E. Feggans Center Contractual Services.

Copies of this legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk at:

City Hall 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743-2125

BE SURE TO ATTEND THE CONSTANT YIELD HEARING MAY 26TH AT CITY HALL AT 5:00 P.M. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ROBERT ASHTON AT 301-336-2600.

SAFEGUARD AGAINST FINANCIAL MISHAPS

Unfortunately, uncertain economic times are prime times for financial mishaps. To safeguard against financial mishaps, the City of Seat Pleasant the offer the following tips:

- **Hold on to your personal information.**

Do not give any personal information over the phone or internet to an unfamiliar company or caller. This includes your credit card numbers, but also the credit card expiration date, your Social Security number, driver's license number, bank account numbers, and personal information, such as your mother's maiden name. Even if you are told it is only for "identification" or "verification" purposes, this information can be used for unauthorized credit card charges or bank account debits. Tell the person to send their request to you in the mail and that you will check out their record with the Better Business Bureau.

- **Use direct deposit.**

Your mail - both incoming and outgoing - can be vulnerable.

If your Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) check or other payment is delivered by mail to an unlocked box, you may be at risk for theft.

Direct deposit eliminates the risk of lost or stolen checks, reduces fraud, and gives people faster access to their money on payment day.

Direct deposit also protects against identity theft.

For more information about enrolling in direct deposit of your Social Security or SSI payment, call the Go Direct helpline at 1-800-333-1795 or sign-up online at www.GoDirect.org.

- **Pay the safest way.**

Many enjoy the convenience of online shopping. If you're an online shopper, remember it's best to use a credit card as your payment option and to check that the internet connection you are using is secure. Under federal law you can dispute the charges if you don't get what you were promised, or if the product is not delivered within the stated time period. Many credit card issuers also have a "zero liability" policy for unauthorized charges in the event your credit card number is stolen.

- **Arm yourself with information.**

The Better Business Bureau offers safe shopping advice and other helpful tips at its website - www.bbb.org. When in doubt, always check things out. Consult with trusted family members, friends or neighbors before making a major purchasing decision.

Whenever you have a question or concern regarding a merchant or marketplace transaction, contact your local Better Business Bureau or check the consumer tips and alerts at www.bbb.org.

For additional information or for assistance, **please contact the City Treasurer Robert L. Ashton Finance Department at 301-336-2600 extension 2236**

A WORD FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

THEFT FROM CARS ON THE RISE

Even though FBI statistics would seem to suggest that most crimes are going down, one crime that continues to escalate is stealing from cars. In 2008, there were approximately 300 incidents in the Metropolitan Police Department's Second District. The District has one of the highest theft from vehicle rates per capital in the nation and last year more than 1700 people reported burglars had invaded their cars in the Bethesda area alone, a sharp increase from the previous year with law enforcement officials seeing a growing trend

The primary cause for the problem according to police is more people leaving valuables and electronics

(CON'T. ON THENEXT PAGE)

(THEFT FROM CARS con't.)

in plain sight. Thieves target cars where objects such as computers, iPods and GPS systems are left visible by owners.

CrimeReports.com Is one of the websites where you can track places where you're most vulnerable. Many of the crimes occur on parking lots near shopping districts and Metro stations. Thieves tend to target areas where they can get more loot.

One of the ways to discourage thieves is to disable your steering wheel. Other precautions include taking your valuables with you or locking them in the trunk. Valuables should never be left in unattended cars. If something has to be left in the car it should be kept hidden or locked away. A car alarm would also help to deter crooks. Any removable items should be clearly marked with the vehicle registration number making it less attractive to thieves and allow them to be easily identified if stolen.

Investigators say that one of the best things to do is write down the serial numbers of all your gadgets or register them with the manufacturer. This will help authorities. There are several ways police are able to track down items stolen from cars. Sometimes detectives are able to track the serial numbers of electronic devices such as GPS or laptops once they are used. Unfortunately this can be prove to be difficult as most of these stolen items are shipped out of the country within twenty four hours of being stolen. This strategy is only effective if the equipment has been registered and owners can provide these identification markers.

Cars should be parked in well lit areas with passing traffic and special locking wheel nuts will prevent theft of wheels if a car is left unattended for an extended period. Cars can be equipped with a host of security systems but are not effective if they are not used. Needless to say, simple measures like locking the car and parking in well-lit areas can go a long way in reducing the likelihood of a vehicle becoming a part of the car theft statistics. (Sources: The Hatchet, WUSA news and Protecting Yourself.com)

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Leaving valuables in plain sight is enticing to thieves. Make sure to keep valuables secure and out of view.

CODE ENFORCEMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Code Enforcement department would like to answer some frequently asked questions to help you better understand the department and its functions. You can read those questions below with the corresponding answers. Please feel free to contact us at 301-499 8700 if you have any other questions that you would like to be answered.

Q. Why did you send me a notice when my neighbor has violations on their property?

A. Notices go out to everybody that has violation on their property. The code enforcement department does not discriminate as to who will and will not receive a notice of corrective action.

(Frequently Asked Questions continued)

Q. Are there issues that Code Enforcement can't control?

A. Yes, Code Enforcement cannot resolve matters such as property line disputes, and tree branches or limbs hanging onto your property. These issues are best handled by an attorney as they tend to be civil matters.

Q. What do to if you receive a corrective action notice?

A. Call the code enforcement officer at 301-499-8700. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE. Find out how you can correct the problem and do so promptly. You can ask for additional time provided you are making progress on the violations. **Note: if you are unwilling to correct the violation in the time that was specified, there are several possible consequences you may face including fines and penalties.**

Q. What is the International Property Maintenance Code?

A. The International Property Maintenance Code is an internationally recognized and used document, designed to provide minimum standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property and public wellbeing by regulating and controlling the location and maintenance of all residential buildings and structures within the City of Seat Pleasant.

Q. If a violation can't be seen, it is still considered a violation?

A. Many of the codes within the city require that the violation be visible from the street. However, there are instances when permission is given by the owner of the adjacent property to view the violation from their property.

Q. If I have other people who are not family living in my house, do I have to get a rental permit?

A. A rental permit is required only if you are renting your home to someone.

A WORD FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

A project manager has been selected for Street Repair Work. Mr. Peter Tanyi of Mastercraft Construction International has been chosen to oversee street repair work in the City of Seat Pleasant. The street repairs are being funded by a Community Development Block Grant from the County. The City applies yearly for the grant to fund much needed street repairs that the City would otherwise be unable to accomplish. Work is slated to begin in June and will include curbs and sidewalks as well as street resurfacing where necessary. It was Mr. Tanyi's familiarity with the documentation reports and inspections required for CDBG programs that helped to secure his selection along with his years of experience in this area of work, expertise, and local recommendations.

The streets that are scheduled for these street improvements are 69th street between Addison Road and Crown Street, 68th Street between James Farmer Way and Martin Luther King and 68th Street between Greig and 66th Street. We are asking citizens in those areas to cooperate with the contractor to ensure the timely completion of the work.

CITIZEN'S FOR PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CPAC) PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

Imagine that you've just bought that new flat screen TV you've wanted so badly that you worked extra hours for the last two months so you could buy it without putting any money on a charge card. Then, while you were at work one day, someone broke into your house and stole it!! (Doesn't that make you mad?) There have been a lot of burglaries in Seat Pleasant in the last couple of months – and the numbers are growing. When you're not home, make sure your doors are locked and think about investing in an alarm system if you don't have one.

We'd like to tell you about one thing you can do to easily identify property of yours that may be stolen. Seat Pleasant's Citizens for Public Safety Advisory Council (CPAC) has a property identification program that is designed to help the police contact you when your property is recovered and lets you identify it so you can get it back. A great way to do this is to mark your valuables with a unique identifying number. All you have to do is place on them an identification number such as the soundex number from your driver's license or state-issued identification – never use your social security number. These markings can easily be done with an engraver – a simple tool to use that works like a pen. If you're interested in engraving your property and don't have an engraver of your own, CPAC has them available for you. Simply go to the Seat Pleasant Police Department from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, provide picture ID, sign a form, and leave a \$10 deposit. This deposit is FULLY refundable if you return the engraver within three days. There is a \$2 per day penalty if you do not return it on time. In addition, we will also give you a property form which allows you to record necessary information such as the item, brand name, model number, etc. This form is for your use only and should be retained in a safe place in your home. Do everything you can do to safeguard your house - we want Seat Pleasant's residents to enjoy living in this great city. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com.

LIVING WELL PROGRAM COMING TO SEAT PLEASANT

The Living Well Program offered through the Prince George's County Area Agency on Aging and the Prince George's County Community College will soon be available in Seat Pleasant. It is a program designed to help people living with chronic conditions. Chronic conditions are ongoing conditions that may cause suffering and loss of physical abilities over many years such as arthritis, asthma, depression, diabetes, glaucoma, heart disease, obesity, stroke, thyroid disease and others.

The program consists of a series of workshops that run for 2 ½ hours, once a week for six weeks preceded by a short introductory session. Two trained and experienced leaders, who live with chronic conditions, facilitate the workshop. Each session is confidential, supportive and builds on the previous one. The course teaches skills to manage symptoms and to get the most out of life. The workshops will be held at the Evelyn Cole Senior Center located at 5720 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, Maryland (at the corner of Addison Road and Martin Luther King Highway) and are scheduled to begin Monday, September 13th, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

The program was developed by Stanford University and modeled after the evidence-based Chronic Disease Self-Management Program and is offered through the Prince George's County Area Agency on Aging and Prince George's County Community College. To register for the workshop contact Darlinda Sanders at Seat Pleasant City Hall at 301-336-2600.

DIDN'T FILL OUT YOUR CENSUS FORM, WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

The deadline for completing and returning your 2010 Census form was April 16, 2010. However your input is still important for determining the needs of your community. That's why from May 1 through July 10 Census Enumerators or Census Takers will be in the field conducting interviews with residents of addresses from which a form was not received.

All Census Takers carry official government badges with their name on them. You may of course ask them for a picture ID to confirm their identity. In addition, some Census Takers might carry a 'U. S. Census Workers' bag. If you still have concerns about their identity, please call the Regional Census Center for this area to confirm that they are employed by the Census Bureau. That number is (215)-717-1020.

If no one answers at a residence, a Census Taker will visit a home up to three (3) times and attempt to reach the household by phone three(3) times. The Census Taker will leave a double-sided (English and Spanish) NOTICE of VISIT in the doorway that includes a phone number for the resident to call and schedule an appointment. The Census Taker will ONLY ask the questions that appear on the census form.

Do I have to talk to the Census Taker? Yes. Your participation in the 2010 Census is vital and required by law, ([Section 221, of Title 13 of the U.S. Code](#)). However, Census Takers are usually very successful in getting participation by explaining the importance of the questions we ask and how the information benefits the community.

Your [privacy and confidentiality](#) is a U.S. Census priority. The Census Taker who collects your information is sworn for life to protect your data under [Federal Law Title 13](#). Those who violate this oath face criminal penalties of a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and the world better than you found it."

Marian Wright Edelman



City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

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Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



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THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL WISH TO
CONGRATULATE

ALL ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE , HIGH SCHOOL
AND COLLEGE GRADUATES FOR 2010



GOOD JOB!



Latasha Gatling
Council President



Eugene W. Grant
Mayor



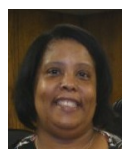
Kelly Porter
At-Large



Elenora Simms
Ward I



Darrell Hardy
Ward V



Aretha Stephenson
Ward II



Reveral Yeargin
Ward III



Gerald Raynor
Ward IV